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Borrow from £5,000 to £100,000 for any purpose.* For example, borrow £10,000 for less than £100 a month over 180 months. Total Amount Payable (TAP) £17,343, at typical 8.4% APR variable.

- Our friendly, helpful staff will find the right loan for you
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Rates from 7.4%APR variable to 10.7%APR variable

Typical 8.4%APR variable

Monthly repayments below are based on typical APR, variable, without Payment Protection.

Amount of loan	180 months	300 months	
Monthly	TAP†	Monthly	TAP†
£10,000	£96.35	£17,343	£78.08
£30,000	£289.06	£52,030	£234.25
£50,000	£481.76	£86,717	£390.42
£75,000	£722.64	£130,075	£585.64
0800 013 1716‡			

Monday-Friday 8am-9pm. Weekends 8am-8pm.

Quoting reference 30142497 or visit us at www.firstplus.co.uk

FIRSTPLUS

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

*FIRSTPLUS secured personal loans are not available for investment or business use.

**Loans are offered subject to status to homeowners aged 18 or over. Rates correct as of 01/11/05.

†TAP = Total Amount Payable. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Calls may be monitored or recorded and calls to 0800 numbers are free. A FIRSTPLUS loan is secured on your home. FIRSTPLUS Financial Group PLC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for general insurance business. FIRSTPLUS Financial Group PLC, The Avenue Business Park, Pentwyn, Cardiff CF23 8FF.

MM12007

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FREEPHONE 0800 294 2377

• Borrow from £5,000 to £50,000

• Reduce your monthly outgoings by up to 55%

• Lines open from 8am to 8pm

• Since 1987 we have helped over 200,000 people

8.9% APR typical variable

FISA
REGISTERED

DMB
LTD



*We have access to a panel of lenders. This offer is only available through Paragon Personal Finance and is not available to applicants with a poor credit rating. Payments are deferred for a period of 6 months but interest is not deferred and is accrued from the date the loan commences. Payments are then made monthly thereafter.

Paragon Personal Finance Ltd, 15,000+ 5 Month payments of zero followed by 115 monthly payments of £198.83. Total repayable £22,865.45 (8.9% APR Variable). Other lenders available & loan plans up to £100,000 also available. On some plans a fee of up to 10% of the amount borrowed may be payable.

Registered in Guernsey number 37913. Registered Office: 1 Le Marchant Street, St Peter Port, GY1 4HP. Debubble Loans is a trading style of Capital Capital Limited. Telephone calls may be recorded.

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

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TYPICAL

Yes Car Credit is a trading title of Direct Auto Finance Ltd, Springfield Road, West Sussex RH12 2RG. Credit subject to status and income. Calls may be recorded and used for training purposes. Calls may be recorded and used for training purposes.

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Kensington London MC
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If so there is a good chance you are paying too much!

We like to say yes to >>>

Turned down elsewhere No proof or income Employed/ Self-employed
Reduce repayments Rate money/try age Clear outstanding debts
Ex & Current Bankrupts Stop Repossessions Arrears-CCJs/ Defaults

Overall cost for Key Mortgage Services FREEPHONE
6.6% APR CALL 24HRS 7 DAYS 0800 195829

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE. FSA REGULATED TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME

CASH LOANS
UP TO
£500

PROVIDENT
Personal Credit

CALL 0800 138 2347
www.provident.co.uk

Provider: Provident Credit, Colonnade, Sunbridge Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

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FAST UNSECURED
LOANS

£500-£25,000 1-7 YEARS

Examples of some of our current plans

AMOUNT	TERM	REPAYMENT	APR	FEES
£25,000	7 years	£491.66	8.8%	£33,739.44
£12,500	6 years	£226.06	8.9%	£16,276.32
£5,000	4 years	£214.40	10.9%	£12,864.00
£5,000	3 years	£321.20	12.9%	£6342.72
£500	3 years	£23.38	44.9%	£841.68

NO ADVANCE OR APPLICATION FEE PAYABLE

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...OR APPLY ONLINE

www.LastEverLoan.com

The Personal Loan Phone Line Ltd, Gloucester, Gloucester, GL1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

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**LOANS from
£50 - £500**

www.greenwoodpersonalcredit.com

CALL 0800 056 8906

Greenwood Personal Credit Limited, Colonnade, Sunbridge Road, Bradford BD1 2LQ. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. Calls may be recorded.

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Reduce repayments Rate money/try age Clear outstanding debts
Ex & Current Bankrupts Stop Repossessions Arrears-CCJs/ Defaults

Overall cost for Key Mortgage Services FREEPHONE
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**CHEQUEBOOK
LOANS**

**INSTANT DECISION
FREEPHONE**

0808 178 0773

www.chequebookloans.co.uk

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LOANS

Same Day Payout Possible

No Fees 15.2% Typical APR

www.freephoneloans.com

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Reduce repayments Rate money/try age Clear outstanding debts
Ex & Current Bankrupts Stop Repossessions Arrears-CCJs/ Defaults

Overall cost for Key Mortgage Services FREEPHONE
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YES www.yesloans.tv

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YES

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part of GE Money

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& Weekends 9am-5pm

www.purpleloans.com

Cash for Christmas
BORROW UP TO £500

Affordable repayments
Simple, straightforward application
Friendly agent calls regularly

For YOUR CASH call free now

0800 068 3758

Lines open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri; 8.30am-5pm Sat

www.provident.co.uk

PROVIDENT
Personal Credit

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"Been refused a loan to consolidate your debts?"

"Living on an Overdraft?"

"Afraid to open your Mail?"

"Robbing Peter to Pay Paul?"

"Pressure from Debt Collectors?"

"Disillusioned with Debt Management?"

DON'T PAY 15% DEBT MANAGEMENT FEES

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ITV Teletext page 365

21. Reduced Call. 01202 629851

Typical APR 15.2%

Refused a Loan?

£200 to £15,000

Apply today, no matter what your credit status? Any Purpose Loans, C.C.J's, Defaults, Arrears? No Problem! Be Accepted!

Call Advantage today

01202 629851

Typical APR 15.2%

CAN'T GET A LOAN? BLACKLISTED?

Call us **FAST LOANS** for **FAST DECISIONS & FAST PAYOUTS**

No matter what your credit history

BE ACCEPTED - CALL TODAY

0870 458 1268

15.2% APR Typical

Charles Price Ltd

PAY OFF ALL YOUR DEBTS QUICKLY NO FEES NO FEES

£500-£75,000 Tenants/Homewards

Bad Credit History

0870 042 6412

Typical APR 15.2% Call 8 Lines Open 5-7

SUPER-FAST UNSECURED LOANS

CCJ'S/ARREARS/DEFUALTS/ SELF EMPLOYED &

POOR CREDIT RATINGS CATERED FOR

TYPICAL APR 15.2%

TEL: 0800 1380447 (NO FEES)

FISA REGISTERED

Setting Standards Achieving Standards

Since being formed in 1990, FISA has worked to promote and enforce standards in the finance industry.

Its members follow strict rules and procedures to ensure that consumers are treated fairly and with respect.

For more information on FISA, visit www.fisa.co.uk

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It's the business

'The silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool' – Rudyard Kipling

Movers & groovers

RYANAIR will today carry out its threat to slash services between Stansted and Newquay in protest at Cornwall County Council's £5 surcharge to pay for airport expansion.

It is withdrawing some 12 flights a week, down to 16, which it claims will mean the loss of around 100,000 passengers a year.

Airline deputy chief Michael Cawley said: "Taxing tourists is not the way to promote visitors to come to Cornwall, particularly during the difficult winter months."

■ **THE Safeway supermarket banner** will disappear from Britain today as **Morrisons** completes its store conversion programme.

It has converted 219 Safeway shops, taking the Morrisons estate to over 360. But with five profits warnings since he bought Safeway last year, the success of Sir Ken Morrison's deal remains debatable.

■ **PHILIP Graf, former chief executive of newspaper publisher *Trinity Mirror*, has turned gamekeeper by becoming the deputy chairman at media regulator Ofcom.**

Graf, who left Trinity three years ago to be replaced by Sir Bailey, has filled his time reviewing the BBC's online activities.

■ **ENGINEERING firm GKN says Ian Griffiths, head of its automotive division, will leave in January.**

His new job is under wraps but GKN said he had taken on the post of managing director of "a major UK based business".

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

COOKSON'S market revival gathered momentum on renewed talk of a takeover. The industrial materials company's shares firmed 15.25p to 380.25p on rumours that a predator was mulling a 500p-a-share approach. Cookson has seen its market value rise 20% over the past month.

Rental market still strong

SPECULATORS have deserted the buy-to-let market leaving it to professional landlords and serious investors, says specialist mortgage lender **Paragon**.

The past year had seen fewer buyers hoping to "make a quick turn" in the market, said chief executive Nigel Terrington.

While the general mortgage

market had seen a mixed picture following interest rate rises, the buy-to-let market had seen sustained demand, he said.

"Our landlords remain optimistic. There is an increase in tenant demand and prospects of lower interest rates," said Terrington.

The group saw the value of

its buy-to-let portfolio rise from £4 billion to £5bn in the year to the end of September.

But it suffered weaker demand for consumer finance as car loans and store credit were hit by higher interest rates.

Annual pre-tax profits rose from £71 million to £76.8m.

FAIR SHARES

UK blue chip gains were overshadowed by medium-sized firms as bid rumours swirled around **EMI** and **Cookson**. The FTSE 250 climbed 58.8 points to 8304.6 while the FTSE 100 rose 15.5 to 5532.7, a four-year high which helped boost the performance of major insurance companies.

Rush for Xbox

CURRYS WARNS OF XMAS SHORTAGES

MICROSOFT'S new **XBox 360**, Apple's **iPod** and the Sony **PSP** console will be in short supply this Christmas, the firm behind Currys warned last night.

DSG International warned of huge demand for the gadgets, expected to be this year's must-haves.

But the Dixons and Currys electrical goods retailer said it expected to hammer its competitors in what will be a tough Christmas.

Chief exec John Clare said the group's stores, which also operate under the PC World and The Link banners, were well-prepared for the crucial festive period, with strong ranges and good deals.

"We have held our own or better in our markets and I see no reason we shouldn't be able to do that over Christmas," he boasted.

Bargains

Shoppers should find plenty of bargains as deflation in the electrical goods market continues.

Computers are about 16% cheaper than last year while the cost of Sat Nav gear has tumbled.

DSG, which is Britain's biggest electrical goods retailer, makes 40% of its sales and 60% of its profits over the eight-week Christmas trading period.

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■ **BY BILL MARTIN**

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DAILY STAR Mobiles

Our consumer guide to the latest mobile phones in the market place

AS mobile sales continue to hot up for Christmas, it seems that cameras are a top priority for many shoppers, according to a new survey.

Internet data firm Hitwise has just produced a report highlighting which mobile handsets are proving most popular with consumers.

Up to a third of all new phone purchases are made in the run-up to Christmas, and mobile operators are busy ramping up activity during this critical sales period.

The most popular models include the Samsung D600, Motorola V3 and Nokia 8800. While all three models have integrated MP3 music players, they are essentially camera phones. The Samsung D600 has a 2-megapixel camera plus powerful 4x digital zoom

that can take print-quality images; the super slim V3 has a high quality integrated VGA camera, also with 4x digital zoom; and the Nokia 8800 features an integrated 0.5 megapixel camera and good quality video recorder.

Other handsets being snapped up by the Christmas shoppers include the Sony Ericsson W550i, the latest music phone in the manufacturer's Walkman range, which comes with a 1.3-megapixel camera, and the Motorola ROKR E1, which has an iTunes interface that makes downloading and playing music tracks a breeze.

Fans of I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! can get involved in the action by downloading a new mobile phone game based on the hit show.

The game is based on the famous

Bushtucker Trials, in which the celebs do battle with all kinds of jungle creepy crawlies in order to win food.

Developed by mobile entertainment distributor Player X, the game is available for the two weeks that the show is on air and can be downloaded from network operators Orange, O2 and T-Mobile.

Meanwhile food fans can now access Jamie Oliver on their mobiles, via Vodafone Live! With 3G by downloading film clips of the TV chef making over 100 of his top recipes.

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wondering what to cook for dinner, help will always be on hand.

Mobile Express is currently offering the Sony Ericsson W550i free on T-Mobile with 200 any time any network minutes and 100 texts per month. The monthly line rental of £23 per month has been reduced to half price line rental for 18 months by redemption, on an 18-month contract, making a saving of £297.00.

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Sony Ericsson W550i

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Hot Handsets - top sellers

1. Samsung D600
2. Sony Ericsson W550i
3. Nokia N70

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Please note: You must be over 18 and have a valid credit/debit card. Electron and Solo only accepted for online orders at www.MobileExpress.co.uk/valuedebts

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TRUCKING INDUSTRY STEPS UP A GEAR

TRUCKING is fast becoming an attractive career option for many. Gone are the days of exhausted and under-paid drivers confined to their cabins for hours on end without a break. Instead, new legislation has helped haul the industry into the 21st century giving it a make-over that even Trinny and Susannah would find hard to top.

Andrew Horner, chairperson of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) Drivers Sector Group, which is made up of over 200 recruiters that specialise in this area, explains how improved industry standards and legislation

such as the Working Time Directive has helped foster such a change. He says, "limiting the working week to 48 hours over a 17 week period means drivers can achieve the work-life balance they deserve."

Although the Working Time Directive has created substantial extra administration for employers, positive effects have also resulted including regulated employee breaks. Truckers can now enjoy half an hour's break when working 6-9 hours and 45 minutes for 9 hours or more. Andrew Horner continues, "Not only are the breaks regulated but the directive also makes sure that truckers get at least one rest day a week and four weeks holiday a

year. However, it is crucial for workers to ensure that they are working with employers or agencies who understand and apply these regulations."

Due to greater regularity of hours and the guarantee of four weeks holiday, there is nothing to stop women combining a rewarding career in trucking with their family commitments. Horner says, "If you thought driving wasn't for you because you didn't fit the traditional stereotype of a trucker think again – you could be just what the profession is looking for and with industry standards on the rise, now is the time to take advantage."

Tom Hadley, director of external

affairs at the REC adds, "UK business is waking up to the advantages that a truly diverse workforce can bring, and the recruitment industry is keen to play a key role in helping to deliver real change to UK workplaces, particularly in sectors such as driving."

If you are considering a career in trucking, it is crucial that you work with a reputable recruitment agency. Make sure your health and safety needs are given priority by

logging on to the REC website <http://www.rec.co.uk/rec/sectorgroups/drivers/aspc>



For further information visit

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STAR RACING



CLASS ACT: Bewleys Berry makes a winning return at Wetherby while (inset) Lan-kawi (right) outpoints Dafara-bad

YOU BEW-TY

BEWLEYS BERRY created a big impression with a resounding victory on his debut over fences in the Harry Atkinson Memorial **Beginners' Chase** at Wetherby.

Howard Johnson's imposing chestnut was one of last season's top staying novice hurdlers and he made a successful transition to chasing with a foot-perfect display.

Graham Lee allowed the 4-7 favourite stride on at the fourth fence and, jumping like an old hand, he was never seriously threatened - apart from briefly by a loose horse - to come home 12 lengths ahead of the runner-up, Briery Fox.

Bookmakers' VC Bet were suitably impressed and slashed his odds for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival into 10-1 from 16-1.

Engine

Owner Graham Wylie was delighted with the performance.

He said: "That was a very good start.

"Graham said he was a bit worried by the loose horse, apart from that he said he was never off the bridle and the horse has a big engine. He said the horse loves his jumping."

"After falling at Cheltenham and being pulled up at Aintree that will be a nice confidence booster for him.

"I don't know where he'll go next but I'm sure Howard will have it planned."

J P McNamara switched from Lingfield's abandoned meeting and the move paid off when he landed a 1,065-1 double on Whispered Promises and She's The Lady for Alescester-based permit holder Roger Brookhouse.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes reported that Redemption and Kandjar D'Allier were the big market movers yesterday for

■ by PETER THICKETT

Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

Redemption is 16s from 25-1 and Kandjar D'Allier 14-1 from 20s. Totesport have also cut both horses with Redemption on from 28s.

Carl Llewellyn is hoping a clean round of jumping can see Redemption go close.

Nigel Twiston-Davies' 10-year-old hasn't won since January 2004 but was travelling well towards the head affairs when falling two fences from home in the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham two weeks ago.

"He would have a good chance barring accidents," said Llewellyn.

Reflecting on the Paddy Power, he commented: "I think he was going very well until he fell and he would have had a good chance of winning."

"He won impressively in a decent race a few years ago and that was the last time he won in fact, so hopefully he will remember."

"He won impressively in a decent race a few years ago and that was the last time he won in fact, so hopefully he will remember."

Sneak

Redemption's last win over fences came in a competitive handicap on Hennessy day at Newbury two years ago, and his lack of winning form has allowed him to sneak into the handicap for this weekend's Grade Three event on 10st 2lb.

The jockey added: "Trabalgan is a worthy favourite but he is a short price. I think Comply Or Die and Kandjar D'Allier have got decent chances as well."

• Timmy Murphy and Henrietta Knight will appear before a Jockey Club disciplinary panel today to appeal over the punishment they received regarding the running and riding of Harringay at Towcester earlier this month.

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

CHEPSTOW

12.30 (2m 6f) 1. WINTER QUASIMODO (J Tizzard 6-4 fav) 1, 2. Kildonnan (W Hutchinson 20-1); 3, Glasker Sill (Thomas 2-1), 21, 31/2. 11 ran. C Tizzard, Sherrone. Total: £1.20; pl £1.00, £1.90, £1.20. Exacta: £3.50, 90, 21. 32/1.

1.05 (2m 4f) 1, GUNGADU (R Walsh 1-5 fav); 2, Welpies One (C Llewellyn 12-1); 3, Caveman (T Doyle 25-1); 4, 11/2. 9 ran. P Nicholls, Shenton Mallet.

Total: £1.20; pl £1.02, £1.90, £3.40. Exacta: £3.50, 90, 21. 32/1.

PLACEPOT: £32.40

WETHERBY

12.25 (2m 7f) 1. REBUNDY WINE (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2, Notaproblem (W Kennedy 3-1); 3, Lucky Judge (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121, 12 ran. L Lungo, Carruthers.

Total: £1.20; pl £1.50, £2.00, £1.50. Exacta: £2.20, 90, 21.

PLACEPOT: £32.40

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12.25 (2m 7f) 1. REBUNDY WINE (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2, Notaproblem (W Kennedy 3-1); 3, Lucky Judge (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121, 12 ran. L Lungo, Carruthers.

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WETHERBY

TWOMORE FOR SUPER BOOKIE BASHER

TWO MORE WINNERS FOR THE HOT-LINE YESTERDAY TO KEEP UP OUR SPARKLING FORM. SO FOLLOW THE TEAM IN THE KNOW TODAY AND EVERY DAY

0905-235-2821

FREE TIPS TODAY!

Text TIPS to 88600

Exclusive from our Trackside Spies

1 free tip per day, 50p per day, max. 10 tips. www.text4spies.com Avg. response 10 sec. 1.14 sec. Text: Text4Spies Text 88600

simon delamere

SELECTIVE QUALITY ADVICE

Some contact as last Thursday's Lord Neilson W5/2 has marked my card for today - so expect another BIG day.

0906 664 09 97

Message available from 10.30am daily

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT land line. Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

Journalist, author and expert on horseracing systems

MORDIN

One QUICK call is all it takes and you could be on my next big-priced winner.

Latest: Kew Green W9/1

Siberian Hightness W85/40

0906 664 0994

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT land line. Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

★ELLEN LUNGO is keen for Brooklyn Breeze to tackle three miles for the first time over fences in the Peterborough Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle on Saturday. ★PETER BOWEN has yet to decide whether to send hurdler Genghis to Newcastle or Newbury on

Mike James

"The best information is no longer a secret..."

A great week for callers. Winners include: Polar Gunner W7/1, Petwick W9/4 - and I've got more quality advice to pass on today.

0906 664 0997

Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

FBI RACELINE

Quality banker bets and value E/W advice for the selective backer looking for the right bets at the right price.

Call today's **Raceline**

We've got some top quality information lined up so make sure you ring by 10.30am.

0906 664 0996

Calls cost £1.50/min from a BT land line. Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

THE SWEENEY WINTER WARMERS!

Make sure you call today as I look to add to last week's superb profits, with winners including:

Hakim W18/1, State Of Play W9/4

Roofing Spirit W15/2

I've got this National Hunt season sorted! Call now and take advantage of my unique advice.

LUMP ON MY CHASERS THIS SEASON. NOBODY DOES IT LIKE ME!!

I've got Carlisle, Taunton and Uttoxeter covered. Just stake and play - this is candy off a baby.

0906 664 09 92

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT land line. Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

TAUNTON ON 09055 141 603 (613)

Calls cost 50p per min from a BT landline

AT THE RACES

TRACKFACTS Right-hand oval track of one mile two furlongs. There are 4 fences in each of the two straight and five hurdles per circuit, with a short run-in of 150yds.

12.30 JUVENILE NOVICES' SELLING HURDLE Class G (9 flights) 2m1f (12 runners) £2,330

1 D Brice 10.10.....J A Jenkins (7) 39
2 Miss K George 10.10.....B Hitchcott *68
3 DARKO KARIM (10)(E)
4 R Hodges 10.10.....R Greene 47
5 GALAXY DANCER (F19)
6 N King 10.10.....C Honour (5)
7 J O'Shea 10.10.....V Slattery 65
8 JAMAARON (F35)
9 W G Turner 10.10 Lucey-Butler (7) 30
10 KING MARRAKECH (F4)
11 M Usher 10.10.....D Crosse
12 LIGHTNING FIRE (F54)(P)
13 B J Llewellyn 10.10.....O McPhail —
14 MAGNATE (7)
15 Mrs S Johnson 10.10 Mr Rhys Hughes (7)
16 SMOKEY THE BEAR (F44)
17 A P Jones 10.10.....J Goldstein —
18 MISS DEFYING (18)
19 R Curtis 10.10.....T Doyle —
20 STRATHAY (10)(BF)(V)
21 M Pipe 10.10.....J Scudamore 60

Star Betting - 2 Inchcape Rock, 9 Strathay, 3 Compton Quay, 10 Darko Karim, 15 Jamsaaron, 33 Amo River, Galaxy Dancer, 50 others. 2004: La Martingale, 3-10-19, (J Moore, 5) 15 Pipe, 13 ran.

STARFORM: STRATHAY Dgr: Inchcape Rock

1.05 BEAUTY OF BATH MAIDEN HURDLE Class D (9 flights) 2m1f (14 runners) £5,439

1 ACAMBO (F63)
2 M Pipe 4 11.2.....R Greene —
3 BARATHEA BLUE (F24)
4 M Pipe 4 11.2.....T Scudamore —
5 BUTLER SERVICES (7)
6 Jonjo O'Neill 5 11.2.....M A Fitzgerald —
7 DREAMS 10 (6)(D)
8 C Roberts 5 11.2.....O McPhail 70
9 HUCKSTER (F187)
10 Miss Williams 6 11.2.....A O'Keeffe —
11 IRON (10)(A)
12 G L Moore 4 11.2.....J E Moore *97
13 R Lee 4 11.2.....T Doyle 70
14 ISLAND LIGHT (18)
15 P Wegmann 5 11.2.....S Curran —
16 MICK JEREMY (F61)
17 R Haugen (NOR) 4 11.2 B Matchelor —
18 SALOPIAN (229)
19 H Daly 5 11.2.....M Bradburne —
20 SPANISH DOWN (F54)
21 D Elsworth 7 11.2.....R Walford —
22 SUNLEY FUTURE (4)
23 TOPKAT (F41)(T)
24 ANNA PANA (F453)
25 R Aler 4 10.9.....S Walsh (7)

Star Betting - 3 Spanish Don, 6 Ify, 7 Ascombe, 8 Barthea Blue, 10 Butter Services, 12 Mick Jeremy, 10 others. 2004: Medici, 6-11-2, (R Thornton, 4-1) Mrs Jeremy Young, 10 ran.

STARFORM: IDRIS Danger: Barathea Blue

UTTOXETER ON 09055 141 601 (611)

Call cost 50p per min from a BT landline. Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

STARFORM: IDRIS Danger: Barathea Blue

TONY LEWIS

STAR TIP

12.20 THE MICK WESTON Class E (10 flights) 2m (12 runners) £2,987

1 O CHORIGON (12) Miss Wilson 7 10.12.....A McCarthy *70
2 COURAGEOUS DOVE (F31) A Bailey 4 10.12.....A Coyle (3) 43
3 D WOOD (F12) A Bailey 4 10.12.....A McCarthy 68
4 040 MY VASAS (10) Bally 5 10.12.....N Fahy —
5 040 MY GOOD LORD (203) B Ley 6 10.12.....James Davies 37

6 005 NOVICATE (19) S Earle 5 10.12.....W Marston —
7 P BROWN (10) Bally 5 10.12.....P Brown —
13 THE MICK WESTON (25)(H) 6 10.12.....P Phillips 6 10.12.....P Brown —
9 055 YTHEKHOT (22) O Shewbridge 4 10.12.....O Nelesen (5) 53
10 055 WOOLSTONE BOY (F31)(T) J 4 10.12.....J P McNamee 17
11 055 PRIDEWELL DOLLY (162) Miss Wilson 5 10.12.....L Treadwell (5) 15
12 055 PRIDEWELL DOLLY (162) Miss Wilson 5 10.12.....L Treadwell (5) 15

Star Betting - 4-5 The Mick Weston, 6 Ythekhot, 12 others. 2004: Kingston Town, 4-11-9, (7 Scudamore, 13-8 Ify) M Pipe, 8 ran.

STARFORM: THE MICK WESTON Dgr: Ythekhot

12.50 EMPOWER TRAINING NOVICES' HURDLE Class E (14 flights) 3m (12 runners) £3,443

1 11 BEST PROFILE (25)(D,S) N Twiston-Davies 6 11.4.....C Lewellyn 79
2 040 COOL PROFILE (25)(D,S) N Twiston-Davies 6 11.4.....C Lewellyn 79
3 24-53 EIGHT FIFTY FIVE (23) R Pipe 5 10.12.....R Johnson 102

4 545-2 GRITTY PALACE (33) J Upton 5 10.12.....M Nicolls (5)

5 5PP- HELL OF A TIME (261) M Ne Sharpe 8 10.12.....J Mogford —

6 10-12 STRANGE DAYS (12)(G) Mr Nicolls 5 10.12.....P Aspell (3) 93

7 4235 TONI ALCALA (13)(P) R Fisher 6 10.12.....P Aspell (3) *107

8 025- WOODVIEW (22) K Bailey 6 10.12.....J P McNamee —

9 025- WOODVIEW (22) K Bailey 6 10.12.....J P McNamee —

10 232- RETRO'S GIRL (32) M Twiston-Davies 4 10.5.....P Studdit (7) 69

11 232- RETRO'S GIRL (32) M Twiston-Davies 4 10.5.....P Studdit (7) 69

12 5052 STARDOS (8) S East 6 10.5.....W Marston —

Star Betting - 7-8 Best Profile, 9-4 Karanja, 6 Eight Fifty Five, 7 Gritty Palace, 8 Retro's Girl, 16 Strange Days, Toni Alcala, 25 others. 2004: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: BEST PROFILE Danger: Karanja

STARFORM: THE MICK WESTON Dgr: Ythekhot

1.40 BEGINNERS' CHASE Class D (13 fences) 2m/f (9 runners) £5,514

1 5055-1 CHOCKDEE (29)(D,G)

2 P Nichols 5 11.5.....J Tizzard —

3 1453-3 M G Rimmel 7 11.5.....J E Moore —

4 750-0 R Buckler 8 11.5.....P Davey (10) —

5 4-0642 R Buckler 5 11.5.....B Hitchcott —

6 12-2PP L Corcoran 9 11.5.....H Ephgrave (5) —

7 KINGS BROOK (30)

8 Nick Williams 5 11.5.....T Doyle *107

9 NAYDABAYO (14)(D,F,P)

10 E Williams 5 11.5.....P Moloney —

11 ZIBELINE (12)(G)

12 4000-0 B Ellison 8 11.5.....W Hutchinson —

13 040460 Miss J Davis 8 10.5.....J Goldstein —

Star Betting - 7-4 Crossbow Creek, 4 Chockdee, 8 He's The Gaffer, Naydabayo, 10 King's Brook, Zipline, 12 Hakuval.

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11 ZIBELINE (12)(G)

12 4000-0 B Ellison 8 11.5.....W Hutchinson —

CARLISLE ON 09055 141 602 (612)

TONY LEWIS

STAR TIP

12.10 PERCUSSIONIST 12.10 WINNERSHIP
12.40 BOHEMIAN BROOK 1.15 TURPIN GREEN
1.15 UNEXPLORED (nyp) 1.50 ROYAL COBURG
2.25 SILVER KNIGHT 2.25 GRATTAN LODGE
3.00 DIAMOND SAL (nb) 3.00 TRANSIT
3.35 RED MAN 3.30 SILVER SEDGE

STARFORD: 10 Crossbow Creek (trable); 2.15 Parisienne Gale (nb); 3.25 Middleham Park (nyp) - all Taunton

CLOCKFORM: 2.25 Falchion 1st win

ROTTWEILER: 12.10 Rainbre 12.40 Befling Secret 1.15 Fifteen Reds 1.50 Numero Un de Solzen 2.25 Silver Jack 3.00 Pay Attention 3.30 Lochiebuds.

GOING: Soft-Heavy in Places

PLACEPOT: First six races.

TRACKFACTS Right-hand undulating course of about one mile five furlongs in extent, with nine easy but well built fences and six hurdles per circuit. There is a severe uphill run-in of about 300yds. Suits the strong galloping type.

12.10 OG'S RACING CLUB NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 1) Class E (9 flights) 2m1f (11 runners) £2,912

1 09052 BRORA SUTHERLAND (33) Miss L Russell 10.12... P Buchanan[3] 80

2 5347 DATBANDITY (18) L Lungo 10.12... P Buchanan[3] 80

3 4052 DOLANS BAY (21) G Moore 4.10... F Konry 39

4 5075 FORTUNATO (19) P Monteith 4.10... D Da Silveira[3] +98

5 5029 KAYGLORY (5) F Murphy 6.10... D C Costello[3] 77

6 50 MOYNE PLEASURE (29) R Johnson 7.10... K Johnson 77

7 28 ODDSMAKER (18) T Barnes 6.10... B Orde-Powlett[7] 77

8 5073 PELTIER (19) H Johnson 6.10... J Howard Johnson 5.10

9 50 SILLOTH SPIRIT (14) Miss A Naughton 5.10... A Rose 5.10

10 04 STRAVONIAN (19) G A Swindham 5.10... J Crowley 5.10

11 2101 WITCH WIND (229) S A Cow 5.10... D McGann[5] 5.10

Star Betting: -4 7 Perussionist, 4 Hollywood Critic, 8 Ossenden, 10 Witch Wind, 16 Rainbre, 20 Dattbandity, 50 Dolans Bay, Moyne Pleasure, 66 others

2004: Roman Ari, 6-10, (F King[3], 5-4) f Jeff Jefferson, 13 ran.

STARFORM: PERCUSSIONIST Danger: Oddsmaker

12.40 OG'S RACING CLUB NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 2) Class E (9 flights) 2m1f (11 runners) £2,912

1 6022 BAFFLING SECRET (318) L Lungo 5.10... B Gibson 39

2 4 09 BOHEMIAN BROOK (18) J Howard Johnson 4.10... G Lee 39

3 50 BORIS THE SPIDER (18) D Hammond 4.10... P McDonald[3] 39

4 5073 LORIS BASKEREL (25) W Moore 4.10... B Orde-Powlett[7] 39

5 4653-2 PLANTERS PUNCH (F21) G Moore 4.10... F Konry 39

6 5073-2 RANDOM NATURE (236) (D,F,S) N Richards 6.10... K Mercers[3] 93

7 0452-1 TIGER KING (21) P Monteith 4.10... B Hardinge 40

8 45-2 WINNERSHIP (20) F Murphy 6.10... K Renwick 40

9 0132-1 YANKEE DODGER (19) Miss A Naughton 5.10... K Mcann[5] 54

10 5073 ZANDEED (F5) A Swindham 7.10... J Crowley 54

11 01151 SKELETH (216) (D,S) Miss S Forster 6.10... E Whillans[7] 93

Star Betting: -3 Bohemian Brook, Mr Tim, 4 Baffling Secret, 5 Random Nature, 8 Lord Baskerville, 10 Boris the Spider, Planters Punch, 12 others.

2004: See Division 1.

STARFORM: WINNERSHIP Danger: Bohemian Brook

1.15 WINTERTHUR LIFE NOVICES' CHASE Class C (16 fencess) 2m4f (13 runners) £7,352

1 2114-1 TURPIN GREEN (13) (CD,0,5) L Lungo 6.11... DOUBTFUL 83

2 4549-2 FIFTEEN SECRET (13) (G) J Hayes 10.10... M J McAlister[5] -

3 2862 NEVADA RED (25) D McCann 4.10... B Gibson 39

4 50 NOIR ET VERT (260) F Murphy 4.10... K Mercers[3] -

5 5073 NUMERO UN SOZAN (P,L) P Ewart 4.10... G Budge[3] -

6 6852-1 ROYAL COBURG (229) T Fenton 5.11... M Goldstein[7] +83

7 0452-1 SAWYER RAKI (28) S Sterry 4.10... M J McAlister[5] 83

8 01151 SOVOTIK (249) S Whillance 4.10... J Crowley 54

9 11 THEATRE RIGHTS (19) J Haldane 5.10... A Dempsey 54

10 5073 UNEXPOSED (18) Miss A Naughton 5.10... G Lee 23

Star Betting: -2 Unexposed, 3 Royal Coburg, 6 Nevada Red, Sovotik, 8

9 Noi Et Vert, 10 Sawyer Raki, 12 Theatres Rights, 66 others

2004: Wild Cane Ridge, 5-11, (D, A Dobbins, 4-4) f Lungo, 8 ran.

STARFORM: TURPIN GREEN Danger: Rebel Rhythm

1.50 E.B.F. 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE Class E (11 flights) 2m4f (11 runners) £3,832

1 0905 JOFI (25) Miss L Russell 6.10... P Buchanan[3] -

2 3 LEY PREACHER (194) G Moore 4.10... F Konry 39

3 2862 NEVADA RED (25) D McCann 4.10... S J Craine[5] 81

4 50 NOIR ET VERT (260) F Murphy 4.10... K Mercers[3] -

5 5073 NUMERO UN SOZAN (P,L) P Ewart 4.10... G Budge[3] -

6 6852-1 ROYAL COBURG (229) T Fenton 5.11... M Goldstein[7] +83

7 0452-1 SAWYER RAKI (28) S Sterry 4.10... M J McAlister[5] 83

8 01151 SOVOTIK (249) S Whillance 4.10... J Crowley 54

9 11 THEATRE RIGHTS (19) J Haldane 5.10... A Dempsey 54

10 5073 UNEXPOSED (18) Miss A Naughton 5.10... G Lee 23

Star Betting: -2 Unexposed, 3 Royal Coburg, 6 Nevada Red, Sovotik, 8

9 Noi Et Vert, 10 Sawyer Raki, 12 Theatres Rights, 66 others

2004: Wild Cane Ridge, 5-11, (D, A Dobbins, 4-4) f Lungo, 8 ran.

STARFORM: UNEXPOSED Danger: Royal Coburg

ABC GUIDE TO ALL THREE MEETINGS

C-Cartisle T-Taunton U-Uttoxeter

C-Cartisle T-Taunton U-Uttoxeter

Advance East... U 3.10

Affie's Sun... U 2.35

Alles Melina... U 1.25

Apple Joe... U 3.10

Apple Leg & U 4.20

Apple Tree... U 3.10

Ashgan... U 3.20

Baffling Secret... C 12.40

Baker of Oz... U 2.05

Baldwin... U 2.15

Barathra Blue... T 1.05

Barfleur... T 2.15

Beller The Mast... U 2.05

Best Profile... U 12.50

Bohemian Brook... C 12.40

Boris The Spider... U 1.25

Bronx... U 2.05

Bronx Sutherland... C 12.10

Brother Ted... U 2.00

Buddy... U 1.25

Business Traveller... U 3.40

Butler Services... T 1.05

Cambrian... U 3.25

Cant Spell... U 1.25

Castle Richard... C 3.00

Chigirin... U 12.20

Chirk... U 1.25

Cill Churnan... C 2.25

Classy Chick... T 2.15

Cleopatra Therapy... U 2.25

Comet... U 2.25

Compton Quay... T 12.30

Courageous Dove... U 12.20

Crickledown... C 3.00

Culicabock... C 3.00

Culver... U 1.25

Danbury... U 1.25

Danvers... U 1.25

Darke... U 1.25

Darling... U 1.25

Darwin... U 1.25

Davilo... U 1.25

Dee... U 1.25

Diamond Sal... U 1.25

Dobbin... U 1.25</

ALL THE ACES

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THROUGH THE VICTOR CHANDLER GROUP

NEW DAILY GAMING COLUMN

Following up on our recent column about bluffing, a player on dailystarpoker.com mailed in with this famous tale of a mega bluff carried out by World Series of Poker Champ Stu Ungar.

FAMOUS BLUFFS

It's 1997 at the World Series final table and Stu Ungar looks to be in the driving seat. Having been chip leader from the outset you might have expected Stu to coast a little. Not a bit of it. Stu attacked anyone and everyone and raised on seven successive hands. Was he bluffing? You can bet on it, but none of the other players wanted to risk elimination by challenging him. Eventually, Vegas pro Ronald Stanley managed to steal the blinds a couple of times and positioned himself just \$200,000 shy of Ungar's mighty stash.

It looked like Stanley was about to overtake Ungar and inevitably they ended up in the kind of heads up ordinary poker players dream about. Ungar is in the big blind and Stanley simply calls. The flop comes down Ace of Spades, Nine of Hearts, Six of Spades. Ron Stanley, an extremely savvy pro, had noted every time Ungar flopped top pair with an Ace, he checked the flop and bet the turn. Stu again checked behind Stanley, indicating he may well have the Ace again. The turn produced an Eight and Stanley, nursing a Nine in his hand and second pair, wagered \$25,000. Stu immediately raised \$60,000 and Stanley replied with a call. The river threw down a King. Stanley checked and Ungar bet \$225,000. Ron Stanley pondered momentarily and folded. In typical psycho style Ungar turned up his hole cards to reveal Queen and Ten. He had nothing. It was a mega bluff and Stanley had thrown away the top hand.

TIP OF THE DAY

The very best use of the bluff comes when the community cards are indicating that a probable flush or a straight are out there. A big bet winging in when there's say three Spades on the board or three consecutive cards is going to be treated much more seriously than a big bet coming in when the board isn't betraying anything of a particularly threatening nature. Keep your eye out for these situations as they develop and be ready to load up if it fits in with your strategy for the hand.

POKER ON ITV

As if to finally recognise the sensational momentum in poker's online popularity, ITV 4 has allotted no less than seventy two hours of poker programming for the first two seasons of the World Poker Tour, in the hope of duplicating the tour's amazing success on television in the USA. How long before poker overtakes soccer in the viewing stakes. Check out dailystarpoker.com and see what all the fuss is about.

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CRICKET: Flintoff magic gives England hope



■ by RODNEY WHITE in Faisalabad

TODAY'S a big day for Ian Botham – his 50th birthday. And it could be an equally important landmark for the new Beefy – Freddie Flintoff.

It was Flintoff's never-say-die guts which kept English hopes alive in the Second Test yesterday and hopes of an unlikely victory surely rest on his shoulders on the final day of the new Beefy – Freddie Flintoff.

The England all-rounder has, without question, now stepped into the boots of the legendary Botham.

It will certainly take one of those miraculous performances to enable England to level the series as Pakistan were pegged back to 183-6 a lead of 199 in their second innings.

But it was Flintoff's two wickets in two balls shortly after tea that forced the door open again for England and raised hopes of a seventh successive Test series win.

Hero

Flintoff, who took 3-46, had asked for an extra over in the final session.

And it paid off as he had Mohammad Yousuf edging on and then next ball knocked out local hero Shahid Afridi's middle-stump with a reverse-swinging delivery.

"I asked for one more over. The ball was reversing a little bit and I'd hit quite a nice rhythm from that end," he said.

"I was running in quite nicely and I felt I had another couple in me."

He meant overs – but was right on the wicket's score, too. Yousuf's dismissal ended a fourth-wicket stand of 56 and Afridi had slaughtered the England attack in his first innings 92.

"We saw from the way he played the other day Afridi can take a game



DUCKING IT: Flintoff bumps Salman Butt

away from you very quickly, so it's crucial to get him out cheaply if you can," Flintoff added.

"We stuck in all day – everybody worked hard. We've seen out here that a couple of quick wickets can change the game – and we've managed to get back in it."

One man that Flintoff could not shift, though, was Pakistan captain Inzamam, whose defiance put him on the verge of another half-century.

Flintoff had earlier seen off opener Shoaib Malik, then Matthew Hoggard caught Younis Khan leg-before.

England had a little luck on their side, too, over the dismissal only four runs later of Butt, who made 50.

He would not have been on strike had umpire Darrell Hair not sent the left-hander back when he picked up a single from the previous ball, only to be judged to have run up the middle of the wicket.

Steve Harmison gave England another boost just before the close when Kamran Akmal followed the swing to be caught behind.

The England paceman had also done his bit with the bat in a last-wicket stand with Shaun Udal that added 47 precious runs.

SCOREBOARD

Overnight: Pakistan 462 (Inzamam 109). England 391-7 (Butt 119).	26
ENGLAND First Innings	2
Udal not out	33
Hoggard b Shahid Afridi	2
Harmison b Butt	35
Extras b1 lb1 w1 nc2	6
Total (132.3 overs).....	446
Fall 1-33 2-39 3-107 4-261 5-272 6-327	
7-375 8-33 9-107 10-142 11-161 12-183	
Bowling: Shoaib Akhtar 27-4-93-2, Naved-ul-Hasan 20-2-63-2, Mohammad Sami 19-5-1, Shoaib Malik 10-2-31-1, Steve Harmison 13-3-31-2, Shoaib Malik 4-0-29-0	
PAKISTAN Second Innings Close	
Shaikh b Steve Harmison.....	26
Salman Butt lbw b Udal.....	50
Younis Khan lbw b Hoggard.....	27
Mohammad Yousuf b Flintoff.....	20
Inzamam ul-Haq not out.....	41
Shahid Afridi b Flintoff.....	0
Kamran Akmal b Jones b Harmison.....	8
Patel, Newell and Udal not out.....	0
Extras b4 lb4 nc2.....	10
Total 6 wkt (65 overs).....	183
Fall 1-104 2-104 3-104 4-104 5-104 6-103	
Bowling: Howard 9-0-28-1, Flintoff 19-2-46-3, Harmison 14-2-41-1, Giles 13-2-35-0, Udal 11-2-25-1.	

5 FOR FUN

- Which three-time Derby winning jockey will race over hurdles in Britain and Ireland this winter?
- Eddie Jones is coach of which rugby union international country?
- What was the top-scoring score of a Scottish Second Division match between Forfar and East Fife, in the 1963-64 season?
- Which English football club play home games at the Kassam Stadium?
- In which year were athletics events at the Olympic last held on a winter track?

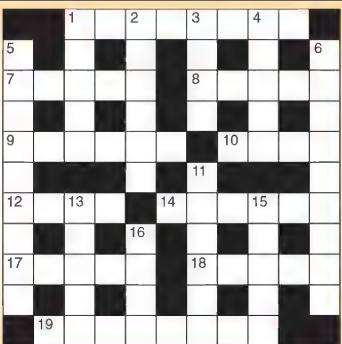
ANSWERS: Page 61

SPORTWORD

ACROSS

- The nickname of Plymouth Argyle (6)
- Apparatus for male gymnasts (5)
- Irish League football club (5)
- Essex and England wicketkeeper (6)
- Aouta, men's 5,000 metres Olympic champion in 1984 (4)
- Jacky, Le Mans winner on six occasions (4)
- Greg, twice Open golf champion (6)
- Ian, Levante and Republic of Ireland defender (5)
- Hughes, Liverpool, Wolves and England defender (5)
- James, Lancashire and England fast bowler (8)
- Olivier, former Formula One driver from France (5)
- Piggott, Derby winning jockey on nine occasions (6)
- Schumacher, brother of Michael (4)
- Jose, Olazabal, Spanish golfer (5)
- Terry, snooker world champion in 1979 (9)
- Les, QPR, Newcastle and England striker (9)
- Tramere, Football League club (6)
- Bracken, England scrum-half (5)
- Winner of the St Leger in 2001 (5)

CALL 0805 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 61 for Wednesday's answers.



Robbo's eyeing try blitz

■ by DEAN WILSON

ANDY ROBINSON has made five changes to the England starting 15 as he aims for a try-fest against Samoa on Saturday.

Out go Ben Cohen, Jamie Noon, Matt Dawson, Phil Vickery and Danny Grewcock, and in come Tom Voyce, James Simpson-Daniel, Harry Ellis, Matt Stevens and Louis Deacon.

Simpson-Daniel has been recalled into the centre to ignite the back-line, which has yet to sparkle this season.

Pace

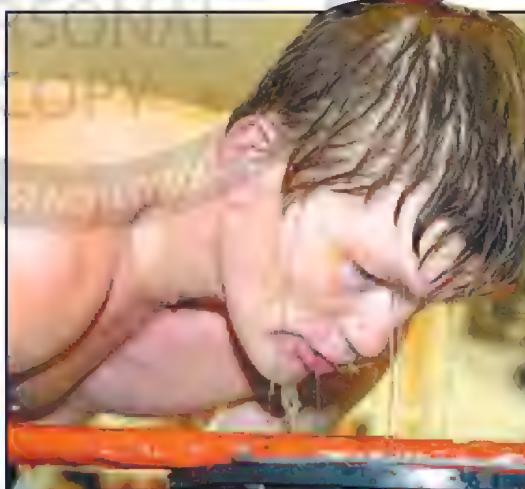
The Gloucester man will earn his eighth cap since bursting onto the scene in 2002.

Robinson said: "We want to see James bring what we know he can to the game, which is very good handling, great running skills and fantastic pace."

Simpson-Daniel said: "I've got to bring the best of my game out while filling some big boots too."

Team: Lewsey, Cuelo, Simpson-Daniel, Tindall, Voyce, Hodgson, Ellis, Sheridan, Thompson, Stevens, Borthwick, Corry, Sanders, Moody, Corry, Reffell, Mears, Freshwater, Shaw, Forrester, Dawson, Barkley, Varnell.

WARREN FIGHT MADE ME SICK



KEEP DUCKING: Ricky Hatton stays cool before Saturday's big title fight

RICKY HATTON says his split with promoter Frank Warren made him so ill that he was forced to miss training.

Hatton meets teak-tough Colombian Carlos Maussa in a lightweight unification showdown at the Sheffield Arena on Saturday, confessing that his build-up has been far from ideal.

The IBF world champion revealed: "This has been the most difficult time of my career. Things have got very personal with Frank and some of the hurtful things that have been said badly upset me.

"I made myself ill with frustration and had to take a couple of days out of the gym. My training has been affected but my performance against Maussa won't be."

Hatton will box under the Dennis Hobson's Fight Academy umbrella at Sheffield following his acrimonious departure from Warren, the promoter who guided him to the top of the pile.

Damages

Warren took out an injunction to prevent the Maussa fight taking place but then withdrew it.

But he is still taking legal action against the Hatton camp for damages for breach of contract.

Right now, though, Hatton is fully focused on Saturday's bout.

He said: "It has made me all the more determined to go out there and unleash all the frustration I've got in me."

The fight, screened live on Sky Box Office, is a rare venture out-

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

side of his home city Manchester. And the pressure is on him to deliver more than ever following the stunning June win over Aussie legend Kostya Tszyu which saw him become the best fighter in the 10-stone division.

Hatton said: "Tszyu was one of the greatest nights of my life but Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns had several. That's what I wanted."

"To be a world champion is special but to beat the best in the world in my division and one of the best pound-for-pound fighters is a great achievement."

"But the best is yet to come. I've become a good world champion but I want to be a great one."

Lee out in cold

WALES coach Mike Ruddock has brought in Matthew Watkins and switched captain Gareth Thomas to full-back for Saturday's Test against Australia in Cardiff.

Ruddock has kept changes to a minimum after a much-improved performance in last weekend's 33-16 defeat to South Africa so Watkins replaces Thomas at outside centre with Lee Byrne dropping to the bench.

Ruddock said: "The rationale for selection was to minimise the changes this week and build on the performance against South Africa."

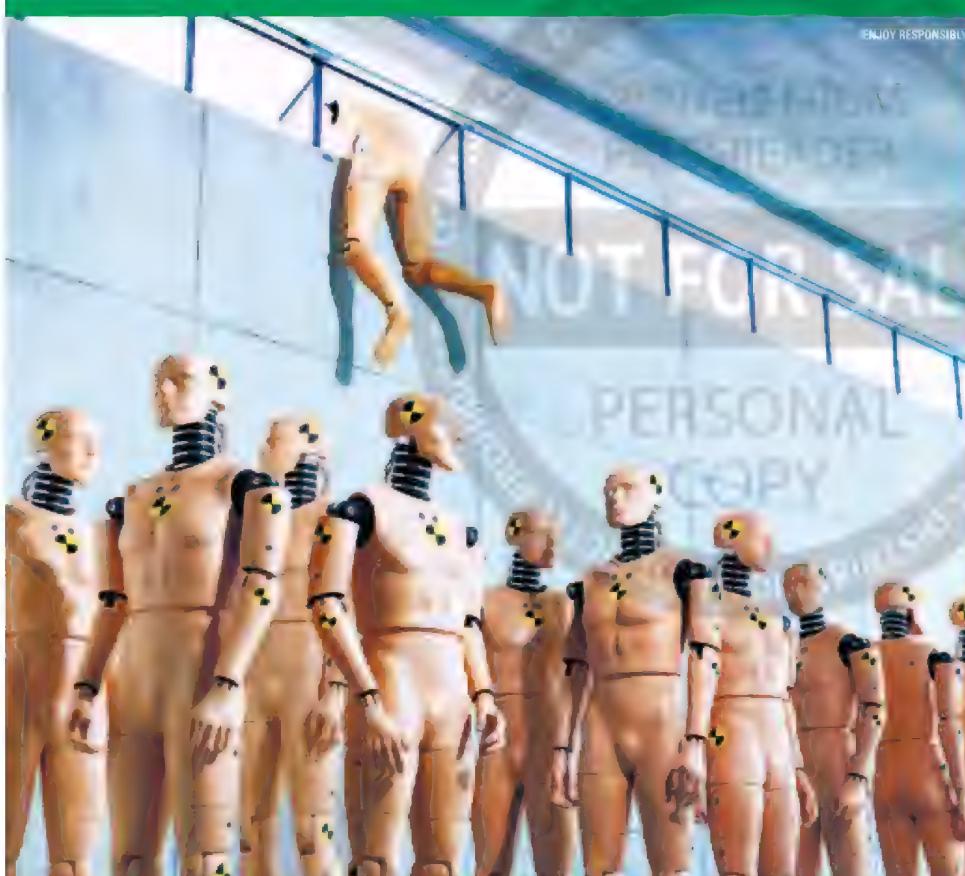
No Ebi ending

■ by IAN WHITTELL

ENGLISH basketball player Ndudi Ebi has been released by the Minnesota Timberwolves, having been paid £15,000 a minute for his trouble.

Ebi, born in London to Nigerian parents, was selected in the first round of the NBA draft in 2003 and handed a guaranteed £1.2m contract.

However, after taking part in just 19 games, Ebi, 21, was released by the Wolves last week.



THE BOTTLE TO BE DIFFERENT.



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TEXTS TO WOOLY

Greatest players in the prem should lead by example on & off the pitch. Roy Keane was a dirty player & ill-tempered. **M. Graham**

REASON WE DIDN'T GET RONALDINHO WAS DOWN 2 KENYON. HE KNEW HE WAS LEAVING 4 CHELSEA. **MAN UTD FAN**

I agree we a Grt goal Roudz wot i think. Collin John goal against Boro is a definite contenda 4 goal of the month or even Goal of the season. **Class Utd fan**

Ferguson's so called display of contempt 4 the media wholly illustrated what the majority of this country feel about media parasites who produce nothing & add nothing 2 our quality of life. **Phil Alex**

Alan hansen and that other little t*** with a tash aint got a clue what they r about keane was brilliant in the premiership not the best. **lee terry gillingham**

Hansen is right im a liverpool fan and would love to have had keane at anfield in his prime a proper footballer who still is a cut above most others except gerard and lampard. **Laupy**

Keano best player premis eva had, zidane deschamps n davids cudnt cope wi him. **ANON**

Bergkamp. Zola best players ever 2 grace premiership. **Ginger'Ston**

OTHER TEXTS

Geordie maggots loyal? Biggest myth ever. 10,000 against oxford before your saviour with the bad hairdo joined. And yes i can spell loyalty ash **TO Jan Belfast. Fergie**

has done wonders for our club and has brought success. Dont jump on band wagon and slag him. Keano and Becks great

players but we lost great

players before and still won

things. United in free fall?

Go slag somebody else off. **Hail Sir Alex. Red Suggy**

To the rams, ur even

worse this season. we

re comin 4 ya! beware. **huggy pone**

Jack scum will never

b bigger than cardiff. **bluebird reg**

Thank goodness for fog! Bolton boys love fog. **BWFC EURO TOUR 05/06. IGGY BOY**

Hope you're ready for a hammering on saturday bulls. your place stinks of bulls*** losers. turner the turnip and his team of cr-pxxx. **sid&Sparky@ecfc**

D'YA KNOW Y JESUS WASN'T BORN IN ANFIELD? COZ U'D NEVER FIND 3 WISE MEN N A VIRGIN. **THERE! HAPPY XMAS 2 EFC TEXT MANIACS. X. JOANIE @ EFC**

Bill Kenwright there's a young Evertonian who's banged in SEVENTEEN goals so far this season, TRUNDLE 2 the bank & give Swansea the ackers. **RAPID - WOOLY**

SERIOUSLY
football

Jimmy's ready to prove a point

HASSEL: YOU CAN BAINK ON ME



IAN MURTAGH
in Alkmaar

JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAINK tonight returns to the scene where his career almost stalled, intent on underlining his status as one of Europe's top marksmen.

The Middlesbrough striker, 33, has come a long way from the time when he mustered just two goals in 35 games for AZ Alkmaar after an equally bad spell at Telstar.

Having spent three months in prison for handling stolen goods and becoming involved with drug dealers during his troublesome teen years, Hasselbaink's prospects both on and off the pitch looked grim.

But his career took off 13 years ago when he swapped Dutch football for a life in Portugal with Camponaorense. And he's not looked back since those traumatic times in Alkmaar.

And while Hasselbaink flew into Holland last tie against their chief rivals in Group D insisting he has nothing to prove, he declared: "I'm 10 times the player I was back then."

"At the start of my career I didn't help myself and wasn't professional enough."

"I was always late. I skipped training. I used to lie in and say I was ill. I thought I'd already made it. I was too big for my boots. I thought they couldn't sack me."

"When Alkmaar released me I looked for another club but no one wanted me or couldn't offer the money I needed to pay my rent, my car, water, gas and all those things. That's why I went non-league."

Strange

Hasselbaink hasn't stopped scoring since moving to Portugal having played for Leeds, Chelsea and Boro as well as Boavista and Atletico Madrid.

He added: "Gradually, people started putting their arms around my shoulders and believing in me."

"It is quite strange how in Holland nobody believed in me and I didn't get the opportunity and I had to go abroad to produce the goods."

Hasselbaink revisited his eventful past in his recently published autobiography and believes fate has decreed Boro and AZ are drawn in the same group.

He said: "It's strange doing the book and then going back. It's good timing but it's quite frightening."

"I will be coming back 10 times better. I've achieved something while I've been gone. I've become a Dutch international. "I can go back with my head held high and they will look at me as having done something."

Boro boast a 100 per cent record after two games, while the Dutch side



DUTCH OF CLASS: Hasselbaink and (inset) boss McClaren

three points having played just once. Both are likely to reach the knockout stages, with Steve McClaren's side needing just a point to progress.

DRUGS cheat Abel Xavier last night entered football's hall of shame when he became the first-ever Premier player to be banned for taking a performance-enhancing substance.

The Portuguese bad boy is facing the sack from Middlesbrough tomorrow after being handed an 18-month suspension by UEFA.

Boro refused to confirm their decision on the eve of their UEFA Cup tie against AZ Alkmaar with a point guaranteeing their place in the last 32.

But commenting on the verdict from Nyon in Switzerland, Boro manager Steve McClaren said: "There is no place for this in football and we will always condemn it."

"Abel is not going to play this season whether he appeals or not."

"I have only just heard the news and it is disappointing but our reaction will come in the next couple of days when we've had time to digest everything."

TEAMS

AZ ALKMAAR (probable):

Timmer, Steinsson, Jaliens, Mathijssen, De Cler, Schaars, Landzaat, Van Galen, Sektouli, Arveladze, Perez.

BORO (probable):

Jones, Riggott, Southgate, Ehagi, Parnaby, Doriva, Boateng, Morrison, Queudrue, Hasselbaink, Viduka.

Ref: Gianluca Paparesta (Italy).

TV: (ITV4, 5pm, KO 5.30pm).

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrou	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
AZ Alkmaar	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Litex Lovach	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Grasshoppers	2	0	2	1	3	0	6
Dnipro	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

TO PLAY: Tonight: AZ v Middlesbrou, Dnipro v Litex Lovach. Wed, Nov 30: Grasshoppers v AZ Alkmaar, Litex Lovach v AZ Thurs, Dec 15: AZ v Grasshoppers, Middlesbrou v Litex Lovach

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New Bolton skipper loves the lure of Europe

CAPN KEVIN EYES GLORY

KEVIN NOLAN is starting to feel like Captain Birdseye since becoming Bolton skipper – because everyone's taking the peas.

The 23-year-old was given the armband for keeps on Saturday after standing in for the injured Jay-Jay Okocha and leading the team to four wins out of four without a single goal conceded.

But he admits his new-found responsibility has come at a price, both in the training ground and even among non-footballing friends.

He said: "They all say I've changed now I'm captain, and whenever I do anything wrong I get even more stick. It is worse with people at home. Every time I ring them it is always, 'All right, skipper'. I'm starting to feel like Captain Birdseye."

"At least the lads haven't done anything to 'celebrate' my appointment. If they had cut my clothes up there would have been murder – I'd have got them all fined."

The decision by Sam Allardyce was a difficult one and was only

by **GEORGE SCOTT**
In Guimaraes

arrived at after talks with Okocha himself. The Bolton manager scoffs at reports that losing the captaincy will hurry the Nigerian out of the Reebok Stadium when the transfer window opens.

And Nolan has been impressed at the good grace with which he has accepted the demotion.

Grace

He said: "Jay-Jay has been fantastic. He was the first one to come over and congratulate me."

"Ever since he took over as captain he has been fantastic and he has been a true gentleman over the decision and I cannot speak highly enough of him."

"I know this season there are going to be times when I am going to need the likes of Jay-Jay maybe to put an arm round my shoulder when things aren't going so well."

Ahead of tonight's UEFA Cup tie with Portuguese side Guimaraes, and with Bolton undefeated in

Europe in their debut season, he hopes the good times might come sooner rather than later.

Nolan said: "We have surprised everybody with how well we have adapted to Europe and we have surprised ourselves too."

"But we are an ambitious club and we think that whatever competition we are in we have a good chance of winning it."

"I had the experience of getting to the League Cup final a couple of years ago and nothing would be more fantastic than lifting a trophy with Bolton."

"We can do that this season, but the next six weeks could make or break the season."

TEAMS

BOLTON (4-3-3): Walker; O'Brien, Ben Haim, N'Gotty, Gardner; Faye, Okocha, Speed; Stelios, Nolan, Borgetti.

VITORIA (4-4-2): Freitas; Mario Sergio, Dragone, Moreno, Cleber; Svard, Neca, Flavio, Benachour; Saganowski, Dario.

Ref: L Duhamel (France).

TV: (C5, 7.45pm, KO 8pm)



GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sevilla	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Zenit	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Besiktas	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Guimaraes	1	0	1	1	1	2	1

TO PLAY: Tonight: Zenit v Sevilla; Guimaraes v Bolton; Thursday, Dec 1: Besiktas v Zenit; Sevilla v Guimaraes, Wednesday Dec 14; Bolton v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Besiktas.

Sidwell: We're in top gear

by **SCOTT COLEMAN**

STEVE SIDWELL is confident he and his Reading team-mates will be playing in the Premiership next season – but boss Steve Coppell is keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

After the Royals whipped Ipswich 3-0 to go top of the Championship, Sidwell said: "The boys are on fire at the moment."

"We are going into every game feeling as if we're unbeatable. We are absolutely flying and everyone is so confident."

Credit

"To have gone 22 games unbeaten is incredible."

But boss Coppell is keen that, despite the long unbeaten run, he doesn't want October and November to become the highlights of their season.

"Great credit should go to the gaffer for what we've achieved," added Sidwell. "Steve keeps our feet firmly on the ground."

"He doesn't say a lot during the week and then you really find out his qualities on a match day. He prepares so well for every game and he gives a little speech before you go out."

"I'm telling you, it's like something out of Braveheart. You feel like you're going to war."

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SPOT ON: Robert Pires scores the winner

Pires: I'm Gunner be staying on

PENALTY hero Robert Pires yesterday confirmed he will see out his contract at Arsenal as he predicted the Gunners could at last be on the brink of European glory.

Pires was the match winner in Switzerland on Tuesday when he came off the bench to replace Thierry Henry and calmly converted an 88th-minute penalty for the only goal of the game against FC Thun.

His winner ensured Arsenal maintained their 100 per cent record in the Champions League this season - a competition in which Arsene Wenger's side have never been past the last eight and clinched top spot in Group B.

Boss Wenger hailed Pires for taking the spot-kick, having famously cocked-up when he attempted a trick one with Henry against Manchester City a month ago.

Last night the Frenchman and Galatasaray, Valencia and Juventus in the past six months insisted he was determined to see out his sixth season in Europe with the Gunners.

Feeling

With his contract up in the summer and no immediate signs of a new one, it had been thought the 32-year-old could be tempted by a new offer from elsewhere when the transfer window opens in January.

Pires is likely to receive just a one-year offer from the Gunners but will hold out for two.

He said: "I am here for the season, no question."

"Yes, I will be talking to the club in January but the only thing I am thinking of is winning something with Arsenal this season."

"I have had this feeling since the start of the season that we could do something special in the Champions League."

"Now we've finished top of the group, we have a better chance of progressing with the combination of youth and experience we have in the team. I'll not be leaving before the end of

■ by DAVID WOODS

this season and I very much want to stay. I'm going nowhere - that is for certain."

"And I hope I am at Arsenal next season. That is very much what I want."

Pires - who confirmed earlier this month that only the intervention of boss Wenger stopped him from joining Juventus with Patrick Vieira in the summer - said he had no qualms about taking the penalty in Bern.

He added: "Did I think back to what happened against Manchester City? No, not at all."

"I know it was the first time that I took a penalty since then but I wasn't nervous about it."

"I felt very confident because I knew it was an important one and was likely to give us a win."

■ DENNIS BERGKAMP is hoping his testimonial game will be one of the first fixtures at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium. The Dutchman is set to retire at the end of the current season.

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SERIOUSLY
football

Benfica crunch beckons for

ED: WE'RE

■ by BILL THORNTON

EDWIN VAN DER SAR last night admitted Manchester United are lucky to still have a chance of staying in the Champions League.

"I think we have got away with it a little bit," the United keeper insisted as fans came to terms with the awful possibility that their heroes could fall at the first hurdle.

United's goalless draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal leaves them with only one win from five in Group D - and the outcome of the group in the melting pot.

Van der Sar, veteran of two European Cup Finals with Ajax in the 1990s, didn't duck the unpalatable truth when he said: "We are still in with a chance only because of the other results."

Fortunately for manager Sir Alex Ferguson, United's lacklustre efforts have been matched by the other teams in the group, all three of whom have also won only once.

Benfica are the top-scoring side with three goals - and they are bottom with five points, one less than the Reds who are in third place.

But if the Portuguese team beat United in Lisbon on December 7, United won't even make the UEFA Cup.

Glory

It is all a big let-down for Ferguson, the fans, United's new owners the Glazers - and for Van der Sar, the 35-year-old stopper who signed from Fulham seeking more glory in Europe.

"I am really enjoying playing in the Champions League again," said the multi-capped Holland star. So, I would really like to keep going into the next phase.

"It would be very difficult and disappointing for me if we don't go through."

The same can be said for everyone at United, not least Malcolm Glazer, who would kiss goodbye to a potential extra £15m if the team is beaten in Benfica next month.

Yet, such is the delicacy of the situation that victory in the Stadium of Light in Lisbon would guarantee progress and a crack at that jackpot.

And the United players are still backing boss Fergie to see them through.

Destiny

Wayne Rooney, whose form on Wednesday was one of the few bright spots, insisted yesterday: "Sir Alex has been around in the game for years and in my eyes he's probably the best manager of all time."

Rio Ferdinand added: "We would rather be in this position where we know what we have to do rather than have to wait for the other result."

"We have to rely on our own resolve and make sure we get through to the next phase."

"Our destiny is in our own hands and we have the capability of doing the job."

"We have to make sure we

Phone giants hang up

From Back Page
United. The club's commercial director Andy Anson was last night insistent that he will clinch another major shirt deal.

Vodafone end their agreement next summer, two years early, and will become one of the main sponsors of the Champions League.

Their decision strengthens the theory that United, who have conceded pre-eminence in the Premiership to Chelsea, can no longer count on their name alone guaranteeing them the best sponsorships.

Anson was having none of that as he said: "The Manchester United shirt is the most iconic in sport."

"The club feels there is a genuine chance to attract significant additional investment. We are confident of securing a new deal in the coming months."

Record

But Bones doesn't think United will find the big hitters of the branding world queuing up, as they once did, to back the Reds.

Chelsea recently secured a British record £50m, five-year shirt deal with Samsung and Real Madrid - David Beckham and all - will enter a world record, £16m-a-year agreement with Taiwanese mobile phone company BenQMobile next summer.

Bones said: "No financial expert can see how the huge debt Glazer has put on United can be paid back, so what large sponsor would want to back the club while he is there?"

"As far as we are concerned, the sooner the Glazers go, the better."

United say they have been aware for some months of Vodafone's decision and have planned accordingly.

Clearly, the team's continued involvement in the Champions League is crucial to their business plan.



OH BROTHER: Avi, Brian and Joel Glazer look on as United can only draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal

flop out of luck but Reds go through

BLUE PETER

STILL BLANK

IT may have been a goalless draw but European Cup holders Liverpool are through to the knockout stages of the Champions League.

They now travel to Stamford Bridge on December 6 for a Group G showdown with Jose Mourinho's Chelsea all-stars – and they need only a point to claim top spot.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard should have put the game beyond doubt in the 89th minute when he was through one-on-one with Betis keeper Antonio Doblas – but the stopper got a hand to his shot to keep his side on level terms.

It might have been a bitterly cold night on Merseyside but Peter Crouch did his best to warm the fans and end his night-time goal drought.

By the time he trudged off in the 83rd minute he had run himself into the ground for the Kop's cause – and still not managed to find the net despite having TEN chances to score.

Frantic

Crouch went tantalisingly close four times in a frantic three-minute spell midway through the first half.

The great £7m marksman first of all showed a fine touch by swivelling around and changing the ball from his left foot to his right before firing in a shot which was taken on the line by Doblas in the 24th minute.

Then skipper Steven Gerrard put him through but Crouch just couldn't get enough pace on his shot and the ball was cleared for a corner.

Gerrard then sent over the flag kick from which Crouch directed a powerful downward header just wide, with keeper Doblas caught completely out of position.

The crowd, and Crouch's team-mates, were clearly willing him on to end that barren spell in front of goal and he almost did it just a few seconds later.

Once again it was that man Gerrard who lobbed the ball over from the right wing to find the England international, who once again headed just inches wide.

It was the kind of run-until-you-drop performance the Anfield crowd had been longing to see from the sometimes awkward-looking Crouch.

And he certainly got plenty of vocal backing



by KEVIN FRANCIS

Liverpool...0 Real Betis....0

from them. It was all a far cry from some of the crowd reactions he's had this season.

Most noticeably the way he was boozed while warming up to come on as substitute for England earlier this season.

Burst

Xisco was troublesome and frequently managed to burst through alone, his speed causing John Arne Riise a few problems at the back.

Then Joaquin burst through and nutmegged Riise only to have the ball

run away from him as he lined himself up for an effort at goal just before half-time.

Betis were second bottom in La Liga but Liverpool's Spanish boss Rafa Benitez had warned before the game that they were in something of a false position.

Their play certainly backed up his words and it was only because Liverpool were at something approaching the top of their game that they were able to keep control of the match for long periods.

And in Gerrard they had someone who was once again in outstanding form, spraying the ball around with the kind of inch-perfect passing that

is such a trademark of his game.

Yet, typical of this captain marvel, he also rolled his sleeves up and took his turn at scoring opportunities whenever they arose.

One particular right-foot effort in the 37th minute looked to be a certain goal until Doblas managed to get in the way and divert the danger.

Doblas was one of the best men on the pitch, keeping an eye on Crouch while doing his best to stifle Fernando Morientes.

He blocked one fine first-half Morientes effort and then flung himself at the striker's feet to deny him at the start of the second period as well.

But he saved the best for last, denying Istanbul hero Gerrard with a minute remaining when a goal seemed a certainty.

TEAMS

LIVERPOOL: Reina, Finnigan, Carragher, Hyypia, Risse, Gerrard, Hamann, Sissoko, Zenden, Crouch, Morientes, Subs: Dudek, Kewell, Cisse, Josemi, Traore, Warnock, Potter.

REAL BETIS: Doblas, Melo, Juanito, Rivas, Oscar, Lopez, Aranguiz, Munoz, Jesus, Rivera, Arzu, Xisco.

Fernando, Subs: Contreras, Canas, Capi, Castellini, Edu, Juanito, Israel.

Ref: Eric Poulat (France).



LONG SHOT:
Peter Crouch
tries to get past
Alberto Rivera

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Information Station

FOOTBALL

UEFA Champions League Group E

Fenerbahce (0)0 AC Milan (1)4
Shacharol 16, 52, 76
Alt: 50,000

Schalke 04 (1)3 PSV (0)0
Kobashvili 18, pen, 75, pen

Alt: 30,000

P W D L F A Pts

AC Milan 5 2 2 1 9 4 8

Schalke 04 5 2 2 1 10 6 8

PSV 5 2 1 2 2 6 7

Fenerbahce 5 1 1 3 7 4

Group F

Real Madrid (1)1 Lyon (0)1

Carew 72
Alt: 59,000

Rosenborg (0)1 Olympiakos (1)1

Rivaldo 25
Alt: 17,450

Sent off: A Partizan (Olympiakos) 85

P W D L F A Pts

Lyon 5 2 1 1 9 4 8

Real Madrid 5 3 1 1 9 6 10

Rosenborg 5 1 2 2 5 9 4

Olympiakos 5 1 1 4 5 12 4

Group G

Anderlecht (0)0 Chelsea (2)2

Crispo 8
Alt: 21,070
Carvalho 15

Liverpool (0)0 Real Betis (0)0

Alt: 42,077

P W D L F A Pts

Liverpool 5 3 2 0 6 1 11

Chelsea 5 3 1 1 7 1 10

Real Betis 5 2 2 3 6 8

Anderlecht 5 0 0 0 5 0 8

Group H

Porto (0)1 Rangers (0)1

Lopez 60
McComack 83
Alt: 48,000

Inter Milan (2)4 A Bratislava (0)0

Fig 28
Adriano 41, 59, 74

P W D L F A Pts

Inter Milan 5 3 0 1 8 3 12

Rangers 5 1 3 1 6 6 10

A Bratislava 5 2 2 5 9 5

Porto 5 1 3 8 9 4

UEFA Cup Group B: Lokomotiv Moscow 4, Partizan 2

LDV-VANS TROPHY NORTHERN SECTION SECOND ROUND

Boston (0)0 Kildermister (3)3

Christie 28
Blackwood 40
Alt: 1,131

SOUTHERN SECTION SECOND ROUND

Colchester (0)L Northampton (1)1

Elikod 57
Kirk 26, Boje 67
Garcia 50
Alt: 1,719

(After 90 mins 2 extra time, 5-5)

Oxford City (1)1 Leyton Orient (0)0

Sabin 27
Alt: 1,521

CRICKET

FIRST WOMEN'S TEST MATCH

(Delhi) – India Women v England Women: India Women 289 (M Raj 78,

A Chopra 65, L J Harper 5-66) and 175-4 dec. v England Women 154 (J Goswami 5-25) and 3-0 (4.0 overs).

GOLF

PGA GRAND SLAM OF GOLF (USA, Calif, Kona, Hawaii) 1st

Rand (USA) unranked, stated, par 72; 67 T Woods, 70, P. Mickelson, 73 M Campbell (Nz), 75 V Singh (Fiji).

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Tampa Bay 4 Philadelphia 2, Ottawa 5 Carolina 3, NY Rangers 3 Atlanta 2 (SO), Montreal 2 (OT), Atlanta 2 (OT) Woods, 70, P. Mickelson, 73 M Campbell (Nz), 75 V Singh (Fiji).

RUGBY UNION

Welsh Premiership

Carmarthen 0, Llanelli 1, Llanelli 23

SNOOKER

THE MASTERS: QUALIFYING (Pontins, Prestatyn) Qualifying (Lancaster, Birmingham, Eng) at Carter (Eng) 6-3

TODAY'S DIARY

(Football 7.45pm unless stated)

UEFA Cup Group D

AZ v Middlesbrough (5.30), Dnipro v Litesk Lovetch (6.45)

Group H

Guimaraes v Bolton (8pm), Z St Petersburg v Sevilla (5.30),

Group A: Monaco v Hamburg (8pm), Lokomotiv v Slavia Prague (8pm), Group B: Valencia v Parma (8pm), Group C: Hallerburg v BK v Sampdoria (8pm), Hertha Berlin v Lens (6pm), Group E: Roma v Strasbourg (8pm), Troms v Crvena Zvezda (7pm), Group F: CSKA Moscow v Levski (8pm), Group G: Marseilles v Heerenveen, Group H: PAOK Salbria v VfB Stuttgart (4pm), S Donetski v R Bucuresti (5.30).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL: Detroit v Atlanta, Dallas v Denver.

CRICKET

Second Test Match – day 5: Pakistan v England (Faisalabad)

India v Women's Test Match – day 4 of 5: India v Women v England Women (Delhi).

SNOOKER

The Masters Qualifying Event (The World Snooker Centre, Prestatyn), Bell's Grand Premier League (St David's Hall, Cardiff)

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORLD

ACROSS: 1 Redknapp, 6 Queen, 7 Saeed, 9 Ali, 10 Finnan, 12 Harris, 14 Tree, 17 Edgar, 18 Reyes, 19 Speeder

DOWN: 2 Eusei, 3 Kent, 4 Austin, 5 Prentiss, 6 Quashie, 8 Denness, 11 Pierce, 13 Regis, 15 Reyna, 16 Fred.

5 FOR FUN ANSWERS

1 Johnny Murtagh, 2 Australia, 3 Forfar 5 East Fife, 4 Oxford United, 5 1964 (Tokyo).

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6/4 Guimaraes 9/4 Draw Bolton 11/8

UEFA Cup, tonight, kick-off 8.00pm, live on Channel 5

correct score

first goalscorer

Guimaraes 0-0 Bolton 6/1 K. Davies (B)

1-0 11/7 EH. Dikou (B)

1-1 7/1 J. Borgetti (B)

2-0 9/1 K. Nolan (B)

2-1 9/1 Stellos (B)

2-2 14/1 JJ. Okocha (B)

3-0 25/1 H. Nakata (B)

3-1 29/1 G. Speed (B)

Others available on request

Tonight's other UEFA Cup matches available on request. All prices subject to fluctuation.

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SERIOUSLY
football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Crespo repays his

Chelsea back in groove

IT was below freezing here in Brussels – but it's the rest of Europe who should be shivering. Just who will be too hot for Chelsea this season?

Manchester United have bigger problems of their own, and now they need a new sponsor as well as a fresh direction. Arsenal will come hard, but do they have the depth?

We will probably have to wait for Barcelona and Ronaldinho to give Jose Mourinho and his men their ultimate test. Barca versus the Blues, now that would be a tasty Champions League Final.

What we discovered here was that Chelsea have repaired any early-season rough edges and look in the mood again.

Intrigue

Mourinho, of course, never had any doubts but there were questions to answer after defeats at Old Trafford in the league and Real Betis in Europe. A Carling Cup exit in the middle only added to the intrigue.

Victory over Newcastle on Saturday followed by this stroll means normal service has been resumed. We didn't really think anything else, did we?

Chelsea's well-oiled machine is running smoothly again. And it is going to take something or someone special to stop them winning a really big prize.

Anticipating that moment will be like waiting for the lottery numbers on a Saturday night, nope, not this week.

Liverpool will believe they can retain their trophy – but would anyone bet on them beating Chelsea over two legs

**WOOLY'S VERDICT**

again? Chelsea have so many players of quality, and here is a good time to praise the rebuilding of Joe Cole.

Cole was so unhappy at being left out by England against Argentina recently that he let coach Sven Goran Eriksson know his feelings before kick-off in Geneva.

Such is Cole's new-found confidence that his reaction when he finally came on, making the winning goal for Michael Owen, proved his point.

He believes he has never played better in his career.

He has lost his inconsistent tag and learned so much from Mourinho. Last night Cole couldn't help but express himself in a Chelsea performance that was as comfortable as it gets in Europe.

Cole is now close to being first choice with club and country, and it is credit to him that he has come so far so quickly.

Today he is a team player, rather than a circus act with no end product.

His dedication should be a lesson to any player who believes there is nothing to learn once they hit the heady heights of Championship medals and England caps.

Once Chelsea had scored twice in the opening 15 minutes, through Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho, it was not difficult for any of their players to enjoy themselves. Anderlecht, short of class, courage and confidence, were no opponents for a side slipping back into form.

No goals, no points and no hope for Anderlecht before the game. They began with nothing and ended with nothing.

Electric

It is also significant that Chelsea have recovered with Eidur Gudjohnsen in the team. He remains one of the unsung heroes of the Premiership, a player no-one on the outside can understand why he isn't chosen for every match.

The Icelandic star oozes class and makes up for that lack of electric pace with a brain so much quicker than most.

Think Peter Beardsley and Teddy Sheringham and you have a picture of Gudjohnsen, the 'Thinking Man's Footballer'.

He does things without fuss and is going to be vital if Chelsea reach their target of a Premiership and Champions League double.

Better opponents than this are waiting for them deeper into the season: Barcelona, Madrid, Lyon, Milan – but Chelsea proved here in Brussels that their swagger is back.

The swagger from boss and team that annoys but wins so much.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH



FIRST CLASS: Crespo celebrates the opener



BLUE BLITZ!
Chelsea take an early two-goal lead against Anderlecht with superb finishes from Hernan Crespo (top) and Ricardo Carvalho

boss's faith as Blues get bullish in Belgium

JOSE SHOWS HIS MUSCLES IN BRUSSELS

JOSE Mourinho has proved he is a man worth listening to.

And his team did just that as they came out of the traps in Brussels to get the win that meant qualification for the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Chelsea blew Anderlecht away with two quick-fire goals.

Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho both scored inside the first 15 minutes to virtually settle this tie.

Mourinho had warned his side that they were becoming too cocky and taking results for granted after a slight wobble.

Their blistering start to the season had been knocked off track by defeats to Real Betis in the Champions League and Manchester United in the Premiership.

The Chelsea boss feared his side were becoming complacent because everything was coming too easy to them.

But on the back of their 3-0 demolition of Newcastle at the weekend, they showed last night they had heeded their fiery manager's words.

Mourinho said he wanted his side to start strongly and not give Anderlecht a look-in, and they did just that.

Perfect

But not before a scare of their own as Mbo Mpenza was just inches away from gliding Christian Wilhemsson's cross past a stranded Petr Cech.

But straight from the goal-kick Frank Lampard dispossessed Anthony Vanden Borre on the left wing.

His cross was inch perfect for Crespo, who from six yards out eased the ball expertly past Anderlecht goalkeeper Silvio Proto.

It was Chelsea's first goal away from home this season in Europe.

Crespo's inclusion had been a surprise considering most people expected him to be left out for Didier Drogba.

The Ivory Coast striker was suspended at the weekend, which gave the Argentinian his chance in the side, and he took it with a goal against the Toon.

But Crespo has played second fiddle this year to Drogba, and dangerously fell out with Mourinho after Eidur Gudjohnsen was started before him against Betis when the African hitman was injured.



By DANNY FULLBROOK
Anderlecht.....0
Chelsea2



By DANNY FULLBROOK
Anderlecht.....0
Chelsea2

Speculation has been rife that Crespo will be off-loaded in January, so this was a huge vote of confidence from the Portuguese boss.

And his decision reaped further dividends when Crespo helped set up Chelsea's second.

He flicked on a corner from Lampard into the path of Carvalho.

And the central defender volleyed the ball into the top right-hand corner for his second goal of his side's European campaign.

All that Frank Vercauteren's side could salvage from their campaign was the possibility of finishing third in the group, and therefore a place in the UEFA Cup.

A draw against Liverpool and defeat by Real Betis meant the Premiership champions might have needed to win

both of their last two games to guarantee qualification for the knock-out stages.

Mourinho had insisted before kick-off that one win would be enough to take Chelsea through Group G and he was right.

Considering Anderlecht have set a new Champions League record of losing 11 games on the bounce, Chelsea did not exactly have much to fear from their opponents.

All that Frank Vercauteren's side could salvage from their campaign was the possibility of finishing third in the group, and therefore a place in the UEFA Cup.

But the Belgian side had also suffered their own Roy Keane-style mutiny with dressing room unrest

and were in a state of disarray. And they proved that with the way they defended in the first 30 minutes.

There was still a worry for Chelsea though because despite reaching the semi-finals last year, for the second consecutive season, they had not won away from home in Europe for over a year.

Their last victory was in Russia against CSKA Moscow on November 2, 2004, and since then they had lost five and drawn one on their travels.

Gutted

Mourinho claimed there were a number of different reasons to excuse this poor run, but the bottom line is they have struggled away from Stamford Bridge.

Roman Abramovich has made it clear to his manager that Europe is his prime concern this season as he has been gutted by the way Chelsea lost out in the last two seasons.

But Mourinho had to go into the game last night

without his key defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

The Frenchman injured his knee at the weekend, and last night was replaced by Michael Essien.

This meant Gudjohnsen started on the ground he visited over seven years to watch his father play when he was with Anderlecht.

But after their opening burst none of this really mattered.

The game was completely one-sided and Duff and Joe Cole nearly combined to score a third just before the break.

The Irishman's shot was

deflected into the path of Cole, and his looping effort was well held by Proto.

At the start of the second-half Duff went close with a low strike from a corner which was won by a galloping run and cross from Carvalho.

Chelsea were on the hunt for more goals as they could see their opponents were starting to wilt under their onslaught on a bitterly cold night.

In the 66th minute Anderlecht finally managed to get a shot on target as Cech was forced to dive low to his right to prevent Serhat Akin's effort from creeping into the net.

Lualua's plea for 'no fear'

■ by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH striker Luana Lualua last night caused a stir by telling manager Alain Perrin to adopt the "no fear" policy of former Fratton Park boss Harry Redknapp.

Lualua admitted he was not enjoying his football this season and has called on Perrin to switch to a more attacking approach, starting with Saturday's home clash against champions Chelsea.

Lualua, having just recovered from malaria, admits it is difficult to produce goals with just one man up front, the formation Perrin has plumped for in recent weeks.

Pompey have scored just three goals in seven home matches, since beating Southampton 4-1 in April.

Change

The Congo striker said: "Everyone had smiles on their faces then and we need to get that back.

"I play football because I enjoy it. But I haven't really been enjoying myself this season. To score goals you need support, not just me or one other striker alone.

"We need each other and, I think a different system, like 4-4-2, would be better.

"But it is up to the manager to change the formation. We've got to do what he tells us. I don't want to say anything wrong but Harry Redknapp didn't fear other sides."

Meanwhile, Pompey's Dutch keeper Sander Westerveld fears being left on the bench may hit his World Cup hopes.

Lee's no loaner—O'Leary

DAVID O'LEARY has told Lee Hendrie to forget about leaving Villa Park on loan.

Former England midfielder Hendrie is frustrated at his lack of opportunities this season—but boss O'Leary has made it clear he has to stay and fight for a first-team place.

Hendrie is being kept on the sidelines by the impressive form of on-loan Newcastle youngster James Milner.

O'Leary said: "James has got the shirt at the moment. I know Lee is frustrated and wants to play football but he has to win back his place."

Business

"I would love to pick all the players but I can only pick 11—and if they are doing the business then they stay in the side."

Hendrie, 27, has claimed that he would be happy to go out on loan, but O'Leary is not a fan of the move.

"He has never come to me and asked about going on loan, and we don't have the biggest squad," he said.

"He is due a testimonial at the end of the season, and he deserves it."

"That is the only thing we have spoken about in the last few weeks."

TEAMS

ANDERLECHT: Proto, Deschacht, Tihinen, Kompany, Zewlakow, Goor, Vanderhaeghe, Vanden Borre, Akin, Mpenza, Wilhemsson. Subs: Zitka, Juhasz, Ehret, Zetterberg, Iachchouck, Deman, Mitu.

CHELSEA: Cech, Del Horno, Terry, Ricardo Carvalho, Gallas, Duff, Essien, Lampard, Joe Cole, Crespo, Gudjohnsen. Subs: Cudicini, Carlton Cole, Geremi, Drogba, Diarra, Paulo Ferreira, Huth.

Ref: Stefano Farina (Italy).

New cash blow hits United



VODAFONE have switched off their £9m-a-year sponsorship deal with Manchester United.

That has convinced the anti-Glazer

campaign that the club is spiralling deeper into debt – and into crisis.

“Malcolm Glazer has put United into a huge amount of debt and it is hard to

see how any large brand would want to sponsor the club while he is there,”

said Sean Bones, of Shareholders

Turn to Page 58

OLD TRAFFORD
CRISIS: Pages 58-59

Raf through but Crouch still blank

Match Action | General

LIVERPOOL booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League last night, but the agony goes on for Peter Crouch.

The lanky 7ft striker is still waiting to score his first goal for Liverpool. But, with a little bit of luck, he might have had half a dozen against Betis.

The shut-out by the Spaniards did not stop Rafael Benitez's European champions ensuring they go through from Group G into the knockout stages.

Flurry

But that lock-out meant there was no personal reward for England striker Crouch, who has now gone more than 20 hours without a Liverpool goal.

With his team-mates and the Anfield crowd clearly willing him on, he did everything but score, with a flurry of shots and headers which were either saved or deflected.

Betis never made it easy for Liverpool, but the champions marched on without any real problems.

MATCH ACTION: Pages 60-61

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BLUE HEAVEN:
Hernan Crespo (right) celebrates with Frank Lampard and Damien Duff after shooting Chelsea ahead last night

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Plts
Liverpool	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Chelsea	5	3	1	1	7	1	10
Real Betis	5	2	1	2	3	6	7
Anderlecht	5	0	0	5	0	8	0

JOSE KOPS A CRACKER

CHELSEA have set up a Champions League winner-takes-all showdown with Liverpool.

They cruised to an easy 2-0 in Brussels to book their place in the last 16.

And they now have to beat the holders at Stamford Bridge on December 6 to win the group – and in theory earn an easier draw in the next stage.

Group winners are automatically drawn against runners-up, but Liverpool would earn top slot if they repeated their performance in

ANDREW GIBSON
PHOTOFEST

02

narrow angle after losing his marker at the far post from a corner.

That killed the game off as a spectacle and enabled Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho to make a series of second-half substitutions that saw Carlton Cole, Geremi and Lassana Diara all come on.

Boris could in theory finish level on points with Chelsea, but the Londoners' better record in the head-to-head games between the pair would book their passage.

MATCH ACTION:
Pages 62-63

last season's semi-final, when they earned a draw. Chelsea's win last night was never in doubt from the moment Hernan Crespo put them into an eighth minute lead from Frank Lampard's cross.

And Ricardo Carvalho made it two seven

minutes later when he volleyed home from a